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The feminine writers whose letters find place in the volume sound no less a note of high resolve and patriotic purpose than the men. Abigail Adams and Mercy Warren are familiar figures in the political and literary history of the Revolution. Hannah Winthrop, if one may judge from the few letters of hers here presented, deserves a place near the other two. She wields a facile pen, one from which flows a lofty rhetoric, now well-nigh forgotten.

There are several facsimiles in the volume, including the resolution of secrecy passed by the Continental Congress in November, 1775, and signed by members, from time to time, as late as June, 1777. The editorial work is essentially all that could be asked. Attention however needs to be called to the fact that the letter of John Adams to James Warren, bearing date of February 11, 1775, belongs instead in the year 1776.

E. C. B.

The History of Legislative Methods in the Period before 1825. By RALPH VOLNEY HARLOW, Ph.D. [Yale Historical Publications, Miscellany, V.] (New Haven: Yale University Press; London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. 1917. Pp. x, 269. \$2.25.)

To the student of American history and politics this volume will be of considerable interest. Dr. Harlow has evidently made a detailed study of the committees in the legislatures of the American colonies, and further he has given serious attention to the party organizations, juntas, and political combinations which entered into colonial legislative processes.

In the chapter on Standing Committees in the Colonial Legislatures, 1750-1775, little new information is furnished, and the brief résumé of the subject given by the author is marred by several errors, which shake one's faith in the thoroughness of this part of his work. On page 12 one finds the following statement: "Why the committee on trade should have been appointed in 1742 is not so clear, but the committee for religion, created in 1769, was certainly the outgrowth of local conditions." The *Journals of the Virginia House of Burgesses, 1727-1740* and 1742-1749, make it very clear why this committee was appointed. A standing committee was appointed in the first session of the assembly of 1736-1740 "to prepare and draw up a State of that Duty [the duty on slaves imported into the colony] and the several Payments that have been made, with the Amount thereof". This committee, reappointed in two other sessions of this assembly, became in 1742 the standing committee on trade. On page 13 one finds the statement that in 1775 Dinwiddie wrote to Halifax, "that our Assembly met", etc. Dinwiddie was lieutenant-governor of Virginia only from 1751-1758, and as he died in 1770 and Halifax died in 1771, it is certain that 1775 was not the date of this

correspondence. On page 18 it is stated that the committee of correspondence which communicated with the colonial agent was in some cases a regular standing committee, but in others, because named by statute, a commission or board rather than a legislative committee. Even when created by statute these committees were composed of members of the legislative bodies, who were amenable to the legislature. Any study of their records will show that their work was closely followed by the legislatures from which they were appointed. Dr. Harlow's contention that because they were named by statute they were commissions and not committees seems to be a distinction without a real difference. These committees were essentially legislative in nature and by appointment, and their records and correspondence were laid before the assembly at each session. This committee in several of the colonies was utilized in 1773 and 1774 for the intercolonial correspondence which resulted in the calling of the first Continental Congress. The reviewer deems the committee for communicating with the agent of great importance, despite the fact that Dr. Harlow dismisses it with the barest mention.

The best chapters are those dealing with party organization and the legislative juntas in the various colonies, and here Dr. Harlow has done an excellent piece of work, pointing out in a most interesting manner the workings of the colonial political machines. The chapters entitled Republicanism in the House, the Jeffersonian Régime, and Madison and Congress are well-written accounts of the struggle between the Jeffersonian and Hamiltonian ideas. The author has stated both sides of the controversy with balance and fairness, though possibly he gives too much weight to the opinions of Fisher Ames, who was intensely partizan and undemocratic.

The book is of excellent print, well indexed, but has no bibliography—a matter of regret although the extensive and numerous foot-notes are a partial compensation. In spite of some errors the work as a whole is commendable and Dr. Harlow has shown ability both in research and as a writer of history.

JAMES MILLER LEAKE.

Audubon the Naturalist: a History of his Life and Time. By FRANCIS HOBART HERRICK, Ph.D., Sc.D., Professor of Biology in Western Reserve University. In two volumes. (New York and London: D. Appleton and Company. 1917. Pp. xl, 451; xiii, 494. \$7.50.)

JOHN JAMES AUDUBON was an ornithologist, artist, explorer, and publisher. Comparatively few people have seen the monumental volumes which formed his life-work and his fame rests upon the attractiveness of his personality, the romance of his life, and his unparalleled record of achievement in making the results of his labors known to the world, rather than upon his actual accomplishments as a naturalist—great as they were. It is not without reason, therefore, that Audubon